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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Change in Exam Schedule for Fall 2005

SUBMITTED BY: Executive Committee of Senate

DATE: March 11, 2005

ACTION: Consultative

Background

The Provost's Council, responding to a number of complaints from several sources, is considering a change in the exam schedule for Fall 05. The Provost's Council has authority to make the decision but wishes to consult with the Senate. Because of required lead time to publicize a calendar change, they requested that we place this issue on the docket for Friday's Senate Meeting (11 March). Despite lack of timely notification of the full Senate, the Executive Committee agreed to discuss this issue else our voice would not be heard.

Proposal

The proposal is to start exams on Saturday and end on Thursday (Sat, Mon==> Thur). The following table compares the approved and proposed exam schedules for Fall 2005.

Date	Approved	Proposed
Thr Dec 8	Christmas on Campus	Christmas on Campus
Fri Dec 9	Study Day	Study Day
Sat Dec 10		Exam Day 1
Sun Dec 11		
Mon Dec 12	Exam Day 1	Exam Day 2
Tue Dec 13	Exam Day 2	Exam Day 3
Wed Dec 14	Exam Day 3	Exam Day 4
Thr Dec 15	Exam Day 4	Exam Day 5
Fri Dec 16	Exam Day 5	

Rationale

The concern was that the Fall 04 exam schedule left too much front-loaded idle time (Christmas on Campus, 2 study days, Sat & Sun-5 days) for students to engage in non-academic pursuits or leave campus prior to the start on exams (Mon==>Friday). A similar schedule phenomenon will occur in Fall 05 (Christmas on Campus, one study day, Sat & Sun-4 days).

Pushing the exam schedule forward and ending exams on Thursday has the added benefit that faculty would have more time to complete their grading. Also, both students and faculty (if they completed grading earlier) would have one more day to enjoy Christmas.